5/20/70

Dear Mary,

Fact is that while we have virtually no secrets from each other (I can feel punk without her seeing it, things like that), it is a rare thing when we read each other's mail. We departmentalize it. All having to do with orders and such inquiries, for example, go to her and I never see them unless she wants to discuss them with me.

That Lil read your letter is exceptional not because it was secret but because she doesn't really have time for that side of our correspondence. When we go to DC, I'll stop off at the post office, get the mail, and she'll scan it for me to tell me if there is something Ishould know. Or, if I'm away and she isn't, she'll read it for the same purpose and then phone. Thus, with me in DC today, she read yours of the 18th. There is one other possibility, depending up which of your letters it was. She knew I was disturbed about Jimmy, and if I was real busy at home, as with someone here and to be here for a while, if she got the mail at the ailbox that morning she might have dec'ded to read it to see if there was news in it. However, if I were to make a guess, I think she saw and felt my reaction about the Newcombs, because she knew of my experience and I told her they had treated him shabbily, and she may just have read it. Nothing wrong with it, for that is the way it should be with husband and wife. But it nonetheless is rare here, for there isn't time, if for no other reason. So, should there be something you might want her to know, if it is not obvious in the letter you'd best tell me. My practice, when possible, is to answer the mail immediately to keep it from accumulating, and by the time we get to talking it may well be out of mind.

I think also Lil may have recognized I was torn between telling you things about others and not telling you. This is a bad situation and I see neither end nor resolution, some being what they are.

Glad to get the clips. If the souvenir is unclear it is better than nothing. And I'll not scan that account on Skolnick, on whom I want to keep tabs. He cannot help us and he can hurt us and he is unconscionable.

Forget about Mayhew. I got it and wrote. No response.

We can't close up shop and go there, much as I'd like, for a number of reasons. Lil can't fly, we haven't the money (if we did I'd go to Chicago and stop Skolnick) and there is much too much to do-and I get a little farthur behind daily. Thanks, though. But I thought you were coming here? Your housekeeping is not a factor, but I doubt you have earned the honor against some of the stiff competition I've seen.

I remember the incident of the priest but had forgotten the name. I've not seen the book.

9 p.m., haven't read the e.m. paper yet, have the other mail to do, so for the present, best to you all. From both.

Sincerely,